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in the loaning of specimens from Kindberg's herbarium, as of their mosses generally. The slowly progressing moss-volume of "North American Flora" should bring final clarity as to Kindberg's names; they are on the other hand undoubtedly one of the impediments to its progress. However, light follows darkness, Macoun's moss-collecting remains a great achievement, and the call to American bryologists for more and better work is an imperative one.

ITHACA, N. Y.

LITTLE JOURNEYS INTO MOSSLAND

IV—LUMINOUS MOSS

GEORGE B. KAISER

To many of us the quest of *Schistostega osmundacea* has been fraught with frequent memorable adventurings into the pleasantest by-ways of Nature.

In THE BRYOLOGIST (Volume V, page 52) J. Warren Huntingdon tells us how he discovered this moss "on one of those splendid hillsides which we may find in any hill town of New Hampshire," saying, further, "I came to a mass of rocks tilted together in such a way as to form something like a cave; looking down this fissure into the semi-darkness, I saw a little circle of light about a foot in diameter. Thinking this might be some decaying matter that gave out phosphorescent light, I examined some of it and found I had a very delicate frond-like moss * *

* * this is the way I found the 'Leuchtmoos.'"

Dr. A. J. Grout, in the same volume of THE BRYOLOGIST, on page 103, relates how he found bits of *Schistostega* in a cave known as "Devil's Den" at the top of Mt. Prospect, in Holderness, N. H., and later, "on the soil and stones of the underpinning of an old shed in Newfane, Vt., on the farm adjoining the one where I spent my youth and childhood, and in the very place where I had often played hide and seek. * * * Here were square inches, almost square feet, of the glistening protonema, whose brilliancy could only be seen by stooping until one looked in upon it at the same level as the entering rays of light.

Like many others, we long ago began eagerly to peer into every dim cave and under every overhanging rock that we encountered on our excursions in the hope that we might observe that beautiful shimmering light which is reflected from the protonema of the Luminous Moss. The search long remained a vain one. In 1909, indeed, our hopes ran high when we had the pleasure of spending several days on the summit of Mt. Mansfield, Vt. Dr. Grout, in 1906, had visited the mountain in company with the Vermont Botanical Club (THE BRYOLOGIST, Vol. X, p.6) and had then found *Schistostega* to be "abundant in the deep clefts in overhanging rocks on the northeast side of the mountain, below a point in the road about a quarter of a mile from the hotel" and, also, "in a crevice about ten feet to the left of the cave on the north side of the 'Nose'." A guest at the Summit House well remembered the bryological feats of Dr. Grout, declaring that "he would often risk life and limb to get the moss he was after." Now, whether

a picture, evoked by this statement, of our friend and author climbing chamois-like about precipice and beetling crag in pursuit of his prey, awakened undue timidity, we know not; but one thing is certain: no Luminous Moss came to light, although we looked with all our eyes. However, many other mosses characteristic of high mountains repaid our efforts until, on the morning of the third day, a severe northeasterly storm sent us back by foot to Stone, drenched to the skin.

In the following summer a fortnight's sojourn at Franconia, N. H., gave opportunity to study the rich moss flora on that side of the White Mountains. Many delightful excursions were made in the vicinity of the Notch, when the Knight's Plume, *Ptilium crista-castrensis*, is at its best, and where deep carpets of *Hylocomium proliferum* vie in beauty with soft banks of *Hypnum Schreberi* with individual plants a foot long! The ascent of Mount Cannon alone is worth the whole trip to an enthusiastic bryologist, but it was not on Mount Cannon that we found *Schistostega*.

In the Lesquereux and James *Manual* we read that, at the time of its publication, the species had been reported by C. H. Peck at Sand Lake, N. Y., and by Foster and James from near the Profile House and Dixville Notch, in the White Mountains, but we were not thinking of Lesquereux and James on the August morning when we began the ascent of Mount Lafayette. The trail starts at the Profile House and soon leads steeply up the mountain through the deep woods. Beside it are to be seen the almost ubiquitous *Pohlia nutans*, our old friend *Dicranella heteromalla*, *Stereodon reptilis*, and *Drepanocladus uncinatus*, with species of *Dicranum*, all in abundance. Then, as we wound higher in our climb, appeared frequent outcroppings of rocky ledges and boulders, huge and moss-covered, standing like venerable sentinels of the mountain side. The characteristic flora of our Northern woods surrounded us with a wealth of bunchberry, Clintonia, twisted stalk, wood sorrel, species of *Lycopodium*, and many a graceful fern.

A little before we came to Eagle Cliff, where the wind howls past in bad weather and where so many interesting lichens and mosses are spread temptingly within reach, the trail led past a series of rocks beneath whose moist overhanging shelves the recesses were scarcely penetrated by the dim light of the forest. As was our wont, we peered within these fissures and miniature caverns. A cry escaped our lips! Here, at last, was the object of our search, here was the Luminous Moss, for, as our eyes explored the partial obscurity, a faint shimmering seemed to grow and grow until it became the glow of "goblin gold"—a soft yellow-green light that shone now steady, now wavering, ever exquisite, beneath our riveted and delighted gaze. To the touch mere earth, and in broad daylight mere earth, until through our handlens we distinguished the tiny *Osmunda*-like leaves of the sterile and the fruiting capsules of the many fruiting plants—but, what a charm to the eye as we lingered to admire that gleam of the radiant protonema in its dark treasure-house beneath the rocks!

Late in the day as we fared on past the timberline to the rugged summit, the weather changed and great torn rags of cloud were hurried by us and the wind blew bleak: but what mattered to us the gathering storm? We bore in our minds

and hearts a bright new memory, we had succeeded in our quest, we had found the Luminous Moss, and though, from that day to this, it has not been our good fortune to again discover this object of so many wanderings and wonderings, that one find has left us inclined to consider the word *Schistostega* a magical word, a talismanic word, a "name to conjure with!"

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

A HANDY METHOD FOR THE MOUNTING OF MOSSES

T. G. YUNCKER

It is believed that the method of mounting mosses and other small herbarium specimens described here has several advantages over the methods ordinarily practised in herbaria. The writer first saw it used by Professor J. P. Naylor, Physicist at DePauw University, in the mounting of the moss collections in his private herbarium and was impressed with its advantages. He has since used it with his own mosses and has found that it works admirably. It is with the hope that it may be of use to others that the method is described.

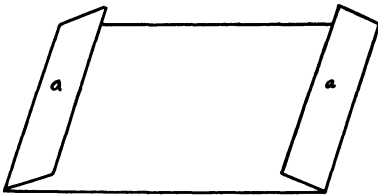


FIG. 1

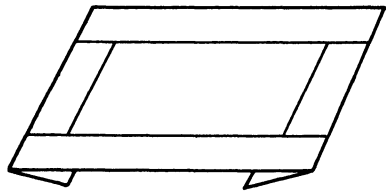


FIG. 3

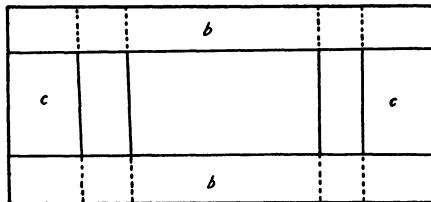


FIG. 2

The method consists of folding pieces of paper into the form of envelopes so that when mounted the specimen is held securely, is visible, and at the same time can be easily removed for further study should that be necessary. Small specimens mounted openly on herbarium sheets are frequently pried off and lost by the shuffling together of the sheets. Also, specimens mounted in envelopes are apt to be broken by frequent removal, oftentimes unnecessary if one could get a glimpse beforehand of what the envelope contained. This new method eliminates these difficulties.